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August 28, 1896 8()6

Last case of smallpox in Shreveport discharged from pesthouse.

SHREVEPORT, LA., August 15, 1896.

SIR: I am informed by Dr. J. F. O'Leary, city physician, that the pesthouse, of which he has had charge since the outbreak of smallpox in this city February 26 last, was closed last week. The last case having recovered and completed the postconvalescent period, was discharged. I will obtain an official record from the doctor and forward it early the coming week, but I am of the opinion that the only change from the synopsis forwarded July 16 last, viz, "under treatment, 3 (all in pesthouse), is 3 recoveries. Of this I am not positive. I have, at Surgeon R. D. Murray's, M. H. S., request, furnished him with as full and complete report of pertinent financial and statistical data as I have been able to obtain from the city of Shreveport, parishes of Caddo (in which this city is) and Bossier, La. While other parishes in this immediate vicinity suffered from one or more cases, I have been totally unable to receive an answer to my several letters to the clerk of the police jury of each of these parishes, notwithstanding the fact I have written each no less than three times. Thus it is the absence of such a report from this office. Should subsequent cases appear, either here or in the immediate vicinity, will promptly apprise you of any facts, etc., I may be able to obtain.

I am, sir, very respectfully, A. R. BOOTH, Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Report on smallpox in Mobile, Ala.

MOBILE, ALA., August 10, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the case of smallpox (Mollie Parker, of Pensacola) which was discovered at Magazine Point, in Mobile County, and sent to the pesthouse July 5, has recovered and was discharged yesterday. This closes the record for this city and county for this season, and a recounting of the procedures will be interesting.

Mobile City, 6 cases admitted; 5 recovered, 1 died. Mobile County, 2 cases admitted; 1 recovered, 1 died.

The first case (M. E.) occurred on March 10, soon after his arrival from New Orleans; his partner went to Pensacola and died there.

The second case (H. W.) came from New Orleans and was discovered March 13. The third case (M. G.) was discovered March 15 and died April 12; claimed to have come from Pensacola, but there must be an error here, for Pensacola's first case was on March 16. The fourth, fifth, and sixth cases came from New Orleans, 2 via Biloxi and 1 via Meridian. The seventh case occurred in a man who lived here (the only locally developed case), and the origin is still a mystery. The last case came from Pensacola, where she had been in attendance on her brother—the barber and a consumptive—who died in Pensacola June 27.

The city health officer, Dr. Abrahams, and the county health officer, Dr. Acker, deserve great credit for their promptness, alertness, and success in managing the situation and the cases. It cost \$35 to convey the first case to the pesthouse, \$15 for use of team and \$20 for the driver. The money was fully earned, as the night was rainy and cold, and the team got away from the driver while he was unloading his charge, compelling him to walk the 5 miles back to the city. The patient recovered.

During 1874 and 1875 smallpox existed here for nineteen months;